

Power Lines

The Official Newsletter of the Orlando Munch



The Beginning of a New School Year...

And I hope everyone is looking forward to learning! ::dons her best teacher's attitude and outfit, complete with ruler::

Well, class. I hope you've all had fun with your naughty summer pursuits, but its time to crack those books and strap in for class!

Recommended reading for this semester is listed on page 8. The book will be up for raffle for one lucky winner. The rest of you can grab it at a bookstore!

A special set of classes will begin after the October Munch. Details are also on page 8. I fully expect to see you all there. ::slaps ruler against hand::

For those of you looking to do "independent research", I hope you'll use the resources we've provided you on pages 5 through 8.



Don't forget your permission slips for the field trip explained on page 9. It will be a fun and educational experience for all!

Of course, one of the best features in this month's newsletter is the eminently well-known Jack Rinella. Pay close attention, boys and girls! He has lots of wisdom to impart!

As always, gum-chewing is not allowed! Unlike other teachers, I don't want an apple. I just want you to have fun!

Eria

The Biggest Bug-a-Boo of All Jack Rinella	2
The Master's Creed	5
The Submissive's Creed	7
September Munch Raffle	8
Newbie Group Class	8
Central Florida Flea	9
Submissive's Rights	10
Upcoming Events	11

Volume 11, Issue 6

September 2007

The Biggest Bug-a-Boo of All Jack Rinella

There are several impediments to living a fully human life: anger, fear, deception, low self-esteem, greed, and envy, to name just a few. As I list them, though, it comes to mind that not every emotion, not every thought, not every action that may be listed as negative is always that way. There may be, for example, times when anger is both justified and helpful.



I suppose that qualities such as greed or envy are hard to defend, but they may be necessary at times. Fear, surely, can be a healthy and helpful feeling. I don't walk across the "EI" tracks because I'm afraid of getting electrocuted by the "third rail." There's nothing wrong with that feeling and I have no need to walk across high voltage rails anyway.

If, on the other hand, there were an emergency across the tracks I might overcome my fear and rise to the occasion, leaping in a single bound (ha, ha) to do my heroic deed.

You get the idea. We're not talking about a black and white clear-cut situation. On the other hand, I think that fear is the greatest bug-a-boo of all.

Fear muddles clear thinking. Fear paralyzes action. Fear robs us of energy that could be used for more productive endeavors. My dictionary defines fear as "an emotion of alarm and agitation caused by the expectation or realization of danger." In that context, I would say that fear in the face of real danger is healthy. The same response in the face of expected or imagined danger is futile.

That doesn't mean that such fears aren't real. Our emotions are real and have real effects on our actions and our thoughts. Emotions are a necessary part of being human. We need to accept them, own them, and recognize them as part of our very nature. What we need not do is make them the sole basis for our actions.

That isn't to say that emotions should be ignored. Instead, reason, intuition, research, advice, wisdom, faith, and hope ought to join with our emotions to present us with the wide range of possible human responses. There is nothing wrong with an emotional response. I'm only saying that an emotional response needs to be lived within the context of a fully human response.

Now that I've meandered about the

The Biggest Bug-a-Boo of All

Jack Rinella

necessity of recognizing fears as valid and part of the solution, let me assert that fear can also be part of the problem.

More than one reader has written or called in to talk about his or her wanting to get involved in leather but being afraid of doing so. At worst it is the "How do I avoid going home with Dahmer?" question. More often it is the fear of the unknown, the fear of rejection, or the fear of black leather and dark corners.

There are fears about injury, about disease, about failure and disappointment. We are human and those feelings are part of the human condition.

I recently had conversations with several different men who were afraid of contracting HIV. That is a rational and very acceptable fear. HIV is much more prevalent than we think and it seems to be a bit more easily acquired than we'd like. I've heard estimates that as many as 50% of the men in a gay bar are infected, most without knowing it.

In any case, HIV is hard, though not impossible, to avoid. It is hard to avoid because we are all affected by it. It is a plague that is devastating our planet.

Even if we never succumb to the virus itself, we can't help but be touched by the lives that it does infect.

But HIV isn't the only thing we fear. I have found that fear of failure is rampant among many of us. Fear of rejection certainly paralyzes a great number of us. Fear of discovery, of recognition, of ridicule are prevalent as well.

There was a time, when I first began to frequent gay bars that I feared rejection. I would sit or stand in the bar for hours wanting to speak to this or that hot-looking man. Like many others, though, I hesitated, ham-strung by the fear that he would tell me no.

One day a man approached me in whom I had no interest. We had a polite conversation and I told him "No". I did it in terms as gentle and as friendly as possible.

**Fear is the
greatest
bug-a-boo
of all.**

As he walked away I reminded myself that this was my body and I had every right to share it or not share it as I pleased. It was OK for me to say "No".

The Biggest Bug-a-Boo of All Jack Rinella

It was then that I realized that it was just as permissible for someone else to tell me the same thing. The person I approached had the same rights that I had. His or her exercise of those rights were not meant to be a statement about me, but about their preferences and their pleasures.

Yes, I would be rejected, but it was no longer any big deal. It was nothing to take personally and it certainly didn't mean that I was bad person. Life would go on after I got the "no". The real truth, hidden by fear, was that the number of no's is very small.

But AIDS isn't a matter of simple rejection, you say? You're right about that. It is here that fear has to be overcome, not for the reason of running head-long into HIV, but rather that our actions be fully human.

Several months ago, a young and very attractive man came over to become my slave. We talked about it for a good while. Needless to say, I was hot to trot.

When push came to shove, though, he was paralyzed by his fear of AIDS. In discussing his very obvious feelings, he shared that he had broken up with a lover who had tested positive. As much as he had cared for this guy, his fear of HIV had gotten the better of the situation.

The real tragedy was that this young man hadn't gotten the right information about HIV, its transmission, and its prognosis. He saw HIV as an immediate death sentence and so cut himself off from the joy of a meaningful relationship.



I know that I fall squarely in the "better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all" camp. I do so because I have acquired a balanced (I hope) view of life and death. I am going to live now, for now, in such a way as to insure that there will be a tomorrow for me in this here and now.

I won't allow myself to become paralyzed by expectations and dreads that are groundless. Just

Jack Rinella

as rejection in a bar isn't a matter of life and death, there are ways to relate to HIV without becoming infected.

My young friend's problem wasn't his fear of HIV. Instead it was his lack of information about HIV. He had never sought competent counsel about it from an AIDS activist or his doctor. His lack of information let his fear run rampant and robbed him of his ability to make a fully human decision.

Yes, fears are real but they can be really overcome. Be honest with yourself about your fears and find ways to develop a balanced, human view of life --- and death. Life is too valuable, and, even for those of us who live to be a hundred, too short to be wasted by fear.



Copyright 1995 by Jack Rinella.
Reproduced with permission.

www.leatherviews.com

The Master's Creed

Above all else he cherishes his slave, in the knowledge that the gift she gives him is the greatest gift of all. He is demanding and takes full advantage of the power given to him, but knows how to share the pleasure that comes from that precious gift.

He is in control of himself first and foremost, so that he may control others. As a stern and demanding Master, he can cause his slave to cry real tears. As the consummate lover, he will then kiss the tears away, without stepping out of character.

In times of trouble, a Master will leave the roles behind, to be a supportive friend and partner, never forgetting that this is still a loving relationship between two caring individuals. He is quick to understand the differences between fantasy and reality. He would never ask a slave to put him before her career, or family, just to satisfy his own pleasure.

To win his slave's mind, body, spirit, soul, and love, he knows he must first win her trust. He will show his slave humor, kindness, and warmth. He must always show her that his guidance and tutoring is knowledgeable and deserving of her attention, that this is a

The Master's Creed

man she can learn from, and trust his direction.

He is romantic enough to be protective and chivalrous. When called upon, he will fight for his lady's honor. He proves to her that he is someone she can lean on, and depend on.



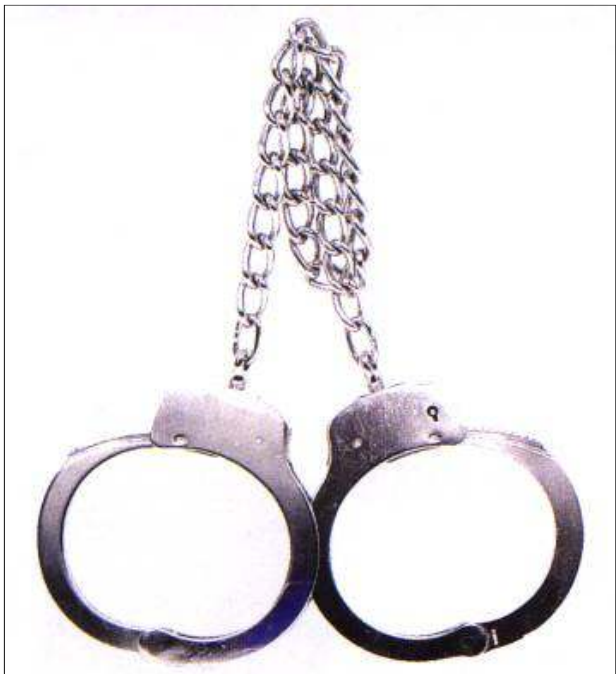
Photo by Tessa

When it comes time to teach his slave her lessons of obedience, he is a strong and unyielding professor. He will accept no flaw, nothing less than perfection from his student. Never does he use discipline without a good reason. When he does it is always with a knowledgeable and careful hand.

He is always open to communication and discussion, always ready to hear her wants and needs. He is patient, taking time to learn her limits, and knowing that as her trust of him grows so will they. He never has to demand

ritual behavior by her. She responds to him out of the want of pleasing him. Compliance comes from the wanting to please, not the fear of punishment. He understands the fragile nature of mind and body and never violates the trust given to him.

He is secure enough to laugh at himself and the absurdities of life. Open minded enough to learn new things; Strong enough to grow. His tools are mind, body, spirit, soul, and love. He understands that each partner gains most from pleasuring the other. And both of them know that love and trust are the only bindings that truly hold.



The Submissive's Creed

I will communicate with complete honesty my needs, desires, limits, and experience. I realize that failing to do so will not only prevent my Master and I from having the best experience possible, but can also lead to physical and emotional harm.

I will not try to manipulate my Master. I will not push to make a scene go the way I feel it should. I will keep an open mind about trying things that I am not accustomed to or comfortable with and expanding my limits. I will continue to grow as a submissive and as a human being.

I will accept the responsibility of discovering what pleases my Master, and will do my best to fulfill His wishes and desires.

I will not allow myself to be harmed or abused. I know that submissive does not equal "doormat".

I will be courteous and helpful to my fellow submissives. I will share my knowledge and experiences with others in the hope that they will learn from



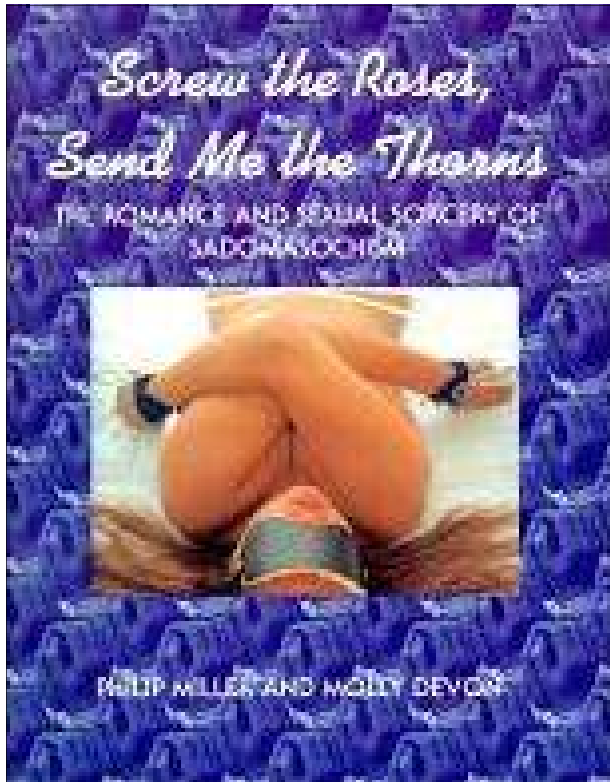
where I have been I will take the time to help those new to the scene start out on the correct path.

I will be responsive to my Master, I will not try to hide what my mind and body are feeling so that I may assist Him in His responsibilities as my Authority, I know that Dominants are not telepathic, and will not expect my Master to know thought or feelings which I do not share.

I will never think myself a "better" submissive because I choose to submit on a different level than another. I will not be boastful of experiences I have had as a sub. I know that my actions reflect upon my Master, and will do my best to help others see him in a positive way, I will not intentionally embarrass or displease my Master.

Above all, I will wear my title of submissive with honor, I will never cause others to think that being submissive means to be weak or sub-human. I will take pride in who and what I am, and will never show myself in a negative way.

September Raffle



Up for grabs at the September Munch!

Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns is a must-have in any beginning kinkster's library. It covers a wide variety of subjects in a well-rounded overview of the lifestyle.

This book will be up for raffle at the September Munch. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the Munch for \$1 apiece or 6 for \$5. Drawing will occur at 4pm. Must be present to win.

Newbie Group Class

The Orlando Munch's Newbie group is planning a class after the October Munch.

This class will be **Flogging 101**, with a guest presenter. The class will be open to both dominants and submissives, so make plans to have your October 27th run a little late!

If you do not currently own a flogger, there will be many available for sale at the Central Florida Flea on September 14th.



Are there other classes you would like to see? E-mail [The Wench](#) with suggestions!

Central Florida Flea

Friday September 14th
6:00pm to Midnight

This is an amazing chance to buy from some of the best local vendors in Florida, especially if you've missed the yearly events! Some of the featured vendors are not often found at such events, so some will be new to almost everyone.

There will be vendors of dungeon furniture, BDSM clothing, adult toys, supplies, and more!

This event is being sponsored by several area Munches.

Find an updated list of vendors at:

<http://www.orlandomunch.com/fetishfleamarket/index.html>

Submissivę's Rights

i have the right to set limits, and expect them to be respected.

i have the right to trust, providing I have earned it.

i have the right to expect You to believe I am an intelligent, caring and loyal person.

i have the right to ask for Your attention, without having to misbehave to get it.

i have the right to expect You to administer Your punishment on me with care and caution.

i have the right to question your motives, should You deny my requests, as long as I do so with the proper respect.

i have the right to speak up if I feel our relationship is not giving me what I need.

i have the right to tell You what I need in a respectful manner. i have the right to expect You to understand my reasons for doing so, and the right to expect You to listen with an open mind and heart.

i have the right to walk away from our relationship if we cannot come to a common ground on these issues.

i have the right to expect tenderness, love and understanding after a scene is completed, should it be what I desire.

i have the right to ask You for that tenderness if I've had a bad day, or if I just feel the need for closeness. I understand that there will be times when You and I will disagree about this ~when You will want a scene and I will not.

i have the right to voice my opinion, and expect You to listen to and consider my reasoning, I expect You to have final word, but i expect You to wholeheartedly consider my feelings, whatever they may happen to be.

i have the right to expect You to understand that deep trust often breeds love, and i expect You not to repel me if i tell You that i love You. i have the right to expect You to tell me, at any point, if You do not feel You can return those feelings, so that i may decide what i want and need. For it is Your pleasure that adds to my own, and makes it real. And mine that adds to Yours!

Upcoming Events

September 14th

Central Florida Flea
DeLand, FL.

[http://www.orlandomunch.com/
fetishfleamarket/index.html](http://www.orlandomunch.com/fetishfleamarket/index.html)

September 28th - September 30th

Beyond Vanilla XVII - Dallas, TX.
www.beyondvanilla.com

October 11th- 14th

DomCon Atlanta - Atlanta, GA.
www.domconatlanta.com

October 26th- 28th

Florida Fetish Weekend - Tampa, FL.
www.FLweekend.com

November 16th- 18th

Spanksgiving - St. Louis, MO.
www.stl3.com/

The Orlando Munch runs the fourth Saturday of the month. The Newbie group starts it all off at 12 noon, with the Singles' Munch following at 1pm. The Munch proper starts at 2pm and runs until 5pm. The Newbie groups hosts a post-Munch discussion or class each month.

The Orlando Munch Coordinators

Torville

Admin@orlandomunch.com

Singles' Munch

Patti

Patti@orlandomunch.com

Newbie Roundtable

The Wench

Wench@orlandomunch.com

Chris

Chris@orlandomunch.com

Guest Writers

Jack Rinella

A big thank you to our contributors! You make the newsletter worth reading!

Power Lines Staff

Editor

Eriayasha

Otownbdsm@yahoo.com

Writer

Chris

Chris@orlandomunch.com